a transponder on the satellite to counter Pakistani TV propaganda; and

(b) if so, the details of the steps taken in this regard ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS) : (a) and (b) The Government have been making efforts to hire requisite capacity in the space segment on a foreign satellite to meet Doordarshan's requirements. Negotiations have been held with the concerned firm but it has not so far been possible to hire such a facility.

Violation of censorship norms

3943. DR. SANJAYA SINH : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that violation of censorship norms, particularly by the Video pirates and Cable TV operators, are on the increase in the country; and

(b) if so, what remedial steps Government propose to take in this regard ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS) : (a) and (b) Under the Cinematograph Act, 1952 any film, whether on video or other formats, intended for public exhibition, is required to be certified by the Central Board of Film Certification. However, from time to time, there have been reports that uncertified video films are being shown. The responsibility for enforcing the penal provisions in the Cinematograph Act, 1952 rests with the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations who have been advised time and again for strict implementation of the provisions of the Act and for action against the offenders.

Cable News Network Office in Delhi

3944. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Cable News Network (CNN) is going to enter India and they have already started their Bureau Office in Delhi;

(b) if so, details thereof; and

(c) whether they have got permission from Govt. of India to start such an Office ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS) : (a) to (c) No formal application from Cable News Network (CNN) has been received in the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting or the Ministry of External Affairs for permission to start their Bureau in Delhi. How ever it is understood that Cable News International, INC, Atlanta, USA (CNN) has been granted permission by Reserve Bank of India under Section 29 (1) (A) of Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1973. They have also sought accreditation or four Indian nationals.

Decision to make Air and Doordarshan Staff Artists Permanent

3945. DR. NAGEN SAIKIA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to make the AIR and Doordarshan staff artists permanent Government employees;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the staff artists of the Films Division are also proposed to be made permanent; and

(c) if so, the details in this regard ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS) : (a) The Government have decided that all Staff Artists/Artists under the 1982 scheme working in All India Radio and Doordarshan (except Foreign Nationals) who were in service on 6th March, 1982, or appointed as such thereafter will be deemed as Government servants.

(b) and (c) No decision has been taken by the Government in this regard ?

Interviews for the Posts of ssistant Station Director

3946. DR. NAGEN SAIKIA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION A BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the interviews for the posts of Assistant Station Director of Doordarshan and All India Radio were conducted in the last part of 1989;

(b) whether a special drive for appointment of S.C. & S.T. Candidates was also made;